

Group I. Claims 1 - 10, drawn to a method, classified in class 219, subclass 121.85;

Group II. Claims 11 -19, drawn to an apparatus, classified in class 219, subclass 121.6; and

Group III. Claim 20, drawn to a product, classified in class 428, subclass 690.

The Examiner asserted that these inventions may be regarded as independent and distinct from one another because Inventions I and II are related as process and apparatus for its practice; Inventions I and III are unrelated; and Inventions II and III are unrelated.

As a formality, Applicants hereby cancel claims 11 -20, without prejudice.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's Restriction Requirement on the grounds that the proposed inventions are not independent and distinct from one another.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's Restriction Requirement on the grounds that the proposed inventions are inextricably intertwined, and prosecution of the proposed groups of claims together would be most effective for the Office. In order to conduct a comprehensive search regarding any one of the groups, including the group provisionally elected above, it would be inherently necessary to review the same pertinent fields and classes of prior art relating to the other groups. Moreover, the important questions of patentability and claim interpretation are likely to be based on substantially similar issues and evaluations for each group of claims, and would require consideration of the same prior art, and combined prosecution is therefore less likely to result in inconsistent or conflicting file histories.

As such, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the Restriction Requirement in the next subsequent Office Action, and continue prosecution of claims 1 - 10 together with one another.

Contingent upon the Examiner's decision not to withdraw the Restriction Requirement, please cancel claims 11 - 20, without prejudice.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance, and such allowance is earnestly solicited.

Applicants believe that no extension of time is necessary to make this Response timely. Should Applicants be in error, Applicants respectfully request that the Office grant such time extension pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) as necessary to make this Response timely, and hereby authorizes the Office to charge any necessary fee or surcharge with respect to said time extension to the deposit account of the undersigned firm of attorneys, Deposit Account 03-3325.

Please direct any questions or comments to Mark W. Lauroesch at Corning Incorporated, SP-TI-3-1, Corning, New York, 14831.

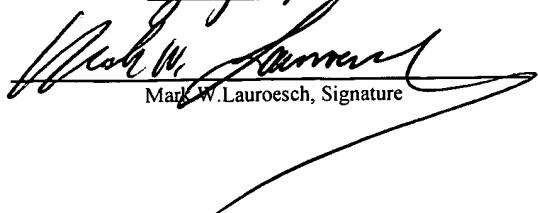
Respectfully submitted,

CORNING INCORPORATED

Date: July 19, 2006

  
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Intellectual Property Department  
Mail Stop SP-TI-03-1  
Corning, NY 14831

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.8:** I hereby certify that this paper and any papers referred to herein are being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service, as first class mail, postage prepaid, addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on July 19, 2006

  
Mark W. Lauroesch, Signature